(c) The CBM exploration in this block is dependent on the assessment of CBM potential and also on the results of the slim hole drilling for which no specific time limit can be fixed.

Shareholdings in Mangalore Refinery

3010. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of persons who are holding share capital above 25 per cent in Mangalore Refinery and Petro-chemicals;

(b) the quantum purchased by Aditya Birla Group in the said shareholding; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to purchase the Aditya Birla Group's stake in the Mangalore Refinery and Petro-chemicals by the HPCL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) and A.V. Birla Group (ABG), the joint promoters of Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL), are holding 37.38% shareholding each in MRPL.

(c) ABG has expressed its intention to exit from MRPL. The purchase of ABG stake in MRPL by HPCL has not been concluded so far.

Exploration of oil in Tamil Nadu

3011. SHRI KA. RA. SUBBIAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of excavation of wells for petroleum and natural gas in Tamil Nadu has taken place for the last rive years;

(b) if so, the details thereof district-wise; and

(c) if not, whether Government would consider exploring Tamil Nadu coast for petroleum and natural gas?